



STATE OF WASHINGTON
BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS

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OPEN LETTER TO PUGET SOUND PILOTAGE STAKEHOLDERS

This open letter is to advise stakeholders interested in pilotage in the Puget Sound region that the Washington State Board of Pilotage Commissioners (Board) will be considering proposals for possible changes to the structure of the Puget Sound Pilotage Tariff (presently set forth in Washington Administrative Code at WAC 363-116-300). The Board has created a Tariff Policy Committee (TPC) charged with examining the present tariff structure for the Puget Sound Tariff (and by extension, possibly the Grays Harbor Tariff). The TPC has held several meetings including a brainstorming session with various stakeholders (pilots, carriers, ports) to generate options for improving the structure of the Puget Sound Tariff.

The final decision(s) regarding any changes will be made by the entire Board. If the changes require revisions to the WAC, then we will hold a public hearing and all stakeholders will be able to comment.

In making decisions regarding tariff structure, the TPC and the Board will consider the Legislative mandate (Revised Code of Washington: RCW 88.16.035) to provide for efficient and competent pilotage service and to insure proper and safe pilotage on Washington waters. The RCW also makes it clear that the Legislature intends that actions by the Board ensure against the loss of lives, loss or damage to property and vessels; to protect the marine environment; and not place in jeopardy Washington's position as an able competitor for waterborne commerce.

With those primary goals in mind, the TPC will be making recommendations to the Board for possible changes to the Puget Sound tariff structure that will bring that tariff more in line with the rapidly changing makeup of shipping in our region. Adjusting for factors such as increases in the size of various vessels, changes in the types of vessels (such as ATBs), the use of modern electronic navigation equipment, complexities of propulsion systems, changes in waterways, changes in types of cargo, etc. will be a primary consideration of the TPC as it moves forward.

I encourage all stakeholders to participate in this important process. There will be notification to the public of any proposed changes to the WAC.

Captain Harry Dudley
Chairman, Tariff Policy Committee